

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 051333

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-03 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 FPC-01 H-02

INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /097 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, US, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN AIDE-MEMOIRE ON EASTPORT REFINERY

1. CANADIAN MINISTER MCKINNEY CALLED AT DEPARTMENT LATE MARCH 6 TO LEAVE FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE WITH VINE WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED OIL REFINERY IN EASTPORT, MAINE.

2. QTE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUPERPORT AND OIL REFINERY AT EASTPORT, MAINE, ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUPERTANKER TRAFFIC TO AND FROM THAT PORT COULD ONLY PROCEED BY WAY OF THE WATERS OF CANADA'S HEAD HARBOUR PASSAGE. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE GRAVE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS PRESENTED BY THE PASSAGE OF COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC THROUGH THESE WATERS TO BE UNACCEPTABLE. THIS VIEW WAS EXPRESSED TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 051333

THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT IN A NOTE OF JUNE 7,

1973 AS WELL AS MOST RECENTLY IN A NOTE OF AUGUST 16,
1974. SHOULD THE MAINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD
DECIDE IN FAVOUR OF THE PITTSTON APPLICATION, THE
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROMULGATE REGULATIONS UNDER
PART XX OF THE CANADA SHIPPING ACT LIMITING THE AMOUNT
OF OIL AND/OR OIL PRODUCTS THAT MAY BE CARRIED THROUGH
THE WATERS OF HEAD HARBOUR PASSAGE. HOWEVER, THE

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE ENCOURAGED WERE THE MAINE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD TO DETERMINE THAT THE
ENVIRONMENTAL RISK OF SUCH TRAFFIC THROUGH HEAD HARBOUR
PASSAGE WAS UNACCEPTABLE, AND UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES,
WOULD NOT REGULATE AT THIS TIME. UNQTE.

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